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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01
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----------070448 101505Z /72
O R 101431Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7081
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 707

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: AFRIKAANS NEWSPAPER POSITIVE ON PROPOSALS

1. SUMMARY: THE AFRIKAANS SUNDAY NEWSPAPER RAPPORT IN A LENGTHY FRONT PAGE ARTICLE, EMPHASIZED THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE WESTERN PROPOSAL AND THE CONCESSIONS THE WEST HAD MADE TO SOUTH AFRICA. IT ALSO COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON THE "ORAL ASSURANCES" GIVEN TO THE SAG, AND SAID THAT SOUTH AFRICA COULD ACCEPT THE PROPOSALS IF THESE ASSURANCES WERE WRITTEN IN. IN AN EDITORIAL IN THE SAME EDITION, RAPPORT URGED PATIENCE AND CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY.

2. ON APRIL 9, RAPPORT, THE LARGEST CIRCULATION AFRIKAANS NEWSPAPER, CARRIED A FRONT PAGE ARTICLE HEADLINED "THEN SOUTH AFRICA CAN SAY 'YES' FOR THE FIVE." THE ARTICLE QUOTED "SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICAL CIRCLES", PRESUMABLY
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SAG SOURCES, TO THE EFFECT THAT IF THE WEST WERE HONEST, AND WROTE INTO ITS PROPOSAL THE ORAL ASSURANCES WHICH IT HAD GIVEN PRIVATELY TO THE SAG (CAPE TOWN 0695), THEN THE PROPOSALS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. SPECIFICALLY, THE ARTICLE STATED WRITTEN ASSURANCES SHOULD BE GIVEN THAT SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE WOULD BE ALLOWED TO PROTECT BORDER POSTS VACATED BY THE MILITARY, AND THAT THE CONSTITUENT

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ASSEMBLY COULD DECIDE WHETHER THE LAST SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO LEAVE.

3. THE REMAINDER OF THE ARTICLE WAS A LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF WHAT RAPPORT'S SOURCES VIEW AS THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSAL. FIRST AMONG THESE ARE THAT SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO WITHDRAW UNTIL A CEASE-FIRE HAS TAKEN EFFECT AND THERE IS PEACE IN THE TERRITORY. SINCE THIS IS THE PURPOSE OF THE TROOPS' PRESENCE IN THE FIRST PLACE, RAPPORT COMMENTED, THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM WITHDRAWING THEM ONCE IT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED. AT THE SAME TIME SWAPO FORCES WOULD BE REQUIRED TO WITHDRAW TO ANGOLA, WHICH WOULD BE "A LARGE BLOW TO THEIR PRESTIGE". OTHER POSITIVE POINTS EMPHASIZED BY RAPPORT WERE:
--DESPITE SWAPO DEMANDS, WALVIS BAY IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSAL.
--THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL'S POSITION IS RECOGNIZED, HE WILL JOINTLY ADMINISTER THE TERRITORY WITH THE UNSR, AND WILL CONTROL THE POLICE.
--THE POLICE WILL BE ALLOWED TO CARRY LIGHT ARMS IN NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT THERE IS NO WRITTEN PRESCRIPTION FOR ABNORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, "A PROPOSAL ABOUT WHICH SWAPO CANNOT FEEL PLEASED."
--AGAIN CONTRARY TO SWAPO DEMANDS, SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS WILL BE CONFINED TO BASE IN OSHIVELLO, IN THE
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NORTH, NOT AT KARASBERG, IN THE SOUTH.

4. IN ITS LEAD EDITORIAL IN THE SAME EDITION, RAPPORT URGES PATIECE IN CONSIDERING THE WESTERN PROPOSAL. IT COMMENTED: "IT IS WORTH THE EFFORT TO LOOK PATIENTLY AND CLOSELY AT ALL OF THE POSSIBILITIES AND POTHOLES OF AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT, WHICH--PROVIDED IT IS ALSO ACCEPTABLE TO THE POPULATION--ASSURES A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR SOUTH WEST. THE ALTERNATIVE IS NOT SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO".
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Reason:
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